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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Executive Registry
86- 3037X

July 3, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN

FROM:

TOM GIBSON 16.

SUBJECT:

The Reagan Revolution:
Setting Records Every Day

Attached, for your information and use, are talking points which pull together some of the current records the American people are setting in a number of areas. They are intended as a helpful tick list of accomplishments.

If you have any questions about these materials, please contact the Office of Public Affairs at (202) 456-7170.

Thanks very much.

ODIA REGISTRY
FILE: 60-7

# THE REAGAN REVOLUTION: SETTING RECORDS EVERY DAY

- O As President Reagan has said, "There are no limits to growth and human progress when men and women are free to follow their dreams."
- The benefits of the Reagan Revolution become more clear every day: With record high employment and opportunity, and record low inflation and prices. Here is a sample of the records set thus far in the Reagan Era.

### The Highest

- Nearly 111 million Americans have jobs today -- the highest portion of the working-age population in postwar history. More black Americans are employed now than at any time since record-keeping began in 1972, and the percentage of black Americans with jobs is the highest it has been in 12 years, 54.6 percent.
- o Real per capita disposable income in the first quarter of 1986 set an all-time high, \$10,597. Real per-capita consumer spending in the first quarter of 1986 was \$9,773 again, a record high.
- Existing houses in April sold at an annual rate of 3.56 million -- their highest rate in almost seven years.

  New-home starts so far this year are running close to a 2-million unit annual rate -- the highest level for a five-month stretch since 1978.
- o In July, the Dow-Jones Industrial Average reached another record high. Investors bought more U.S. Savings bonds in April than at any time since 1978, and today hold more savings bonds than ever before. New business incorporations last year were the highest in history.

#### The Lowest

- O The "Misery Index," which is the sum of the Consumer Price Index and the unemployment rate, is at its lowest level since the late 1960s.
- O The prime interest rate stands at 8.5 percent, its lowest level since 1978.
- o The dropout rate for students in public high schools has fallen four years in a row and is the lowest since 1980.
- Over the past four years, inflation -- measured by either the Consumer Price Index or the Producer Price Index -- is the lowest for any four-year period since the mid-1960s.

## WHITE HOUSE TALKING POINTS

#### The Most

- Americans gave more of their personal income to charities than at any time in the past 16 years, and charitable contributions reached a record \$79.8 billion in 1985. People are also giving more of themselves: 36 percent of the population is involved in charity and social-service activities -- one-third more than in 1977, according to a recent Gallup Poll.
- o More people over age 25 have completed high school or college than ever before. Teacher salaries have risen more sharply in the past two years than at any time since the 1960s. In 1985, average Scholastic Aptitude Test scores made their biggest one-year gain in 13 years.
- More new lawsuits against employers for violations of Equal Employment Opportunity laws were filed between 1981 and 1985 than were filed during 1977-1981. And \$2.1 million more was won in back pay for discrimination's victims during 1981-85 than during 1977-81.
- o We have more ships in the Navy than at any time since the early 1970s. We have more volunteers in our Armed Forces and more of them are scoring in the top three intelligence categories in recruiting tests than at any time since the early 1970s.
- More money will be loaned to college-bound students in 1986-87 than in any previous school year -- over \$9 billion. America's public and private colleges and universities have the largest endowments ever, \$35.5 billion.

## And The Most Popular

o President Reagan's approval rating (68 percent) is his highest ever, according to a Gallup Poll survey conducted in mid-May.